

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 SAM-01 OMB-01 DHA-02 AID-05 (ISO) W

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R 300607Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7381

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 796

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CANBERRA 734

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AS, PT, PFOR

SUBJ: TIMOR

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT RELEASED BY FOREIGN
MINISTER PEACOCK ON JANUARY 29, PORTUGAL HAS AGREED TO ALLOW
THE UN SPECIAL ENVOY, DR. WINSPEARE, TO USE THE RADIOS ON
ITS NAVAL VESSELS TO MAKE CONTACT WITH FRETILIN MEMBERS IN
EAST TIMOR. PEACOCK ADDED THAT PORTUGAL HAD ALSO AGREED
TO LET WINSPEARE USE ITS NAVAL VESSELS FOR TRAVEL IN THE
AREA PROVIDED HE OBTAINED A GUARANTEE OF SECURITY FROM
INDONESIA. THE FULL TEXT OF THE PEACOCK STATEMENT FOL-
LOWS: END SUMMARY.

2. QTE. THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. ANDREW
PEACOCK, SAID TODAY THAT REPORTS OF RENEWED FIGHTING IN
EAST TIMOR HAD UNDERLINED THE NEED TO PROMOTE THE SUCCESS
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OF THE MISSION TO THE TERRITORY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, MR. WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI, AS THE ONLY IMMEDIATE ALTERNATIVE TO FURTHER BLOODSHED.

3. QTE. ACCORDINGLY HE HAD BEEN CONSIDERING URGENTLY THIS MORNING WHAT COULD BE DONE TOWARDS THIS OBJECTIVE, HE SAID.

4. QTE. THE GOVERNMENT APPRECIATED THE LOGISTICAL AND SECURITY PROBLEMS THAT CONFRONTED THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN FULFILLING HIS RESPONSIBILITIES, AND PARTICULARLY IN MAKING CONTACT WITH THE FRETELIN PARTY IN THE INTERIOR OF EAST TIMOR. IT BELIEVED NEVERTHELESS THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO OVERCOME THESE PROBLEMS.

5. QTE. IT CONSIDERED THAT THE BEST WAY OF DOING SO WAS THROUGH A CO-OPERATIVE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT, INVOLVING INDONESIA AND PORTUGAL (AS WELL AS THE UN AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN TIMOR) AS THE PARTIES MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE. IN ADDITION, AUSTRALIA WOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE WHATEVER HELP WAS WITHIN ITS POWER.

6. QTE. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE MINISTER SAID, HE HAD SPOKEN TODAY TO THE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR AND REITERATED THE GOVERNEMTN'S SUPPORT FOR A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, AN END TO THE BLOODSHED, AN ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE RESUMPTION OF HUMANITARIAN AID THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN EAST TIMOR. THIS WAS A LONG-STANDING AUSTRALIAN POSITION OF WHICH THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT WAS WELL AWARE.

7. QTE. THE FIRST PROBLEM TO BE OVERCOME WAS THAT OF MAKING CONTACT, THROUGH A PROPER AND ACCEPTABLE CHANNEL, WITH FRETELIN.

8. QTE. THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT THE BEST MEANS TO THIS END WAS NOT A FRETELIN TRANSMITTER IN DARWIN. IF MR. WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI WERE TO USE THIS CHANNEL IT WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO PROMOTE CONFIDENCE AMONG THE PRO-INDONESIAN PARTIES IN EAST TIMOR,
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WHO WOULD BE LIKELY TO QUERY THE LEGITIMACY OF ANY OUTCOME AND TO DECLINE THEIR COOPERATION.

9. QTE. IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT, IF CONTACT WERE MADE, IT SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH CHANNELS THAT WOULD INSPIRE CONFIDENCE AND WOULD BE OPEN TO VERIFICATION - OTHERWISE IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR THE INDONESIANS TO GIVE ASSURANCES OF THE SECURITY OF THE MISSION.

10. QTE. THE MINISTER RECALLED THAT HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT MIGHT OFFER THE NECESSARY FACILITIES FOR MAKING CONTACT AND THAT AT HIS DIRECTION AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK AND JAKARTA HAD CONVEYED THIS VIEW TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UN AND TO MR. WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI. MR. PEACOCK BELIEVED THERE WERE SOUND REASONS FOR THIS COURSE OF ACTION.

11. QTE. THE FIRST SUCH REASON WAS THAT PORTUGAL IN FACT DID HAVE THE FACILITIES TO MAKE CONTACT - A RADIO TRANSMITTER IN A PORTUGUESE NAVY CORVETTE THAT WAS CURRENTLY IN DARWIN AND WHOSE PRESENCE IN THE REGION AUSTRALIA HAD ASSISTED BY PROVIDING SUPPLY FACILITIES.

12. QTE. FURTHERMORE, THE SECURITY COUNCIL, IN ITS RESOLUTION 384, HAD LAID SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES UPON PORTUGAL TO WORK WITH THE UN TO ENABLE THE TIMORESE PEOPLE TO EXERCISE FREELY THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. THE PORTUGUESE, FOR THEIR PART, HAD OFFERED TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH MR. WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI AND HAD REAFFIRMED THAT THEY CONTINUED TO HAVE SOVEREIGN RESPONSIBILITY FOR EAST TIMOR.

13. QTE. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THESE CONSIDERATIONS HAD LED HIM TO CONCLUDE THAT, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO APPROACH THE MATTER OF CONTACT THROUGH THE ADMINISTERING POWER SIMPLY BECAUSE THIS CHANNEL WAS FEASIBLE AND WOULD BE AUTHORITATIVE AND SO MORE LIKELY TO PROMOTE THE SUCCESS OF THE INITIATIVE THAN CONTACT THROUGH A RETILIN TRANSMITTER THAT MIGHT GIVE RISE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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SUSPICIONS ON THE PART OF THE OTHER PARTIES IN TIMOR.

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14. QTE. HE SAID THAT, IN FACT, THE AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK HAD ONLY THIS MORNING REPORTED TO HIM THAT THE PORTUGUESE HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY THROUGH THE UN SECRETARIAT TO THE SUGGESTION THAT THEY OFFER THE TRANSMITTER IN THEIR CORVETTE AS A MEANS OF CONTACTING FRETILIN.

15. QTE. IF SUCCESSFUL, MR. PEACOCK SAID, THIS OFFER WOULD RAISE THE NEXT QUESTION OF THE MEANS OF TRANSPORTING THE MISSION TO THE AREA.

16. QTE. HERE AGAIN, HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE MOST APPROPRIATE METHOD WOULD BE TO USE A PORTUGUESE NAVAL VESSEL AND THAT THIS SUGGESTION HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO THE UN AUTHORITIES.

16. QTE. HERE AGAIN, HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD SUGGESTED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THE MOST APPROPRIATE METHOD WOULD BE TO USE A PORTUGUESE NAVAL VESSEL AND THAT THIS SUGGESTION HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO THE UN AUTHORITIES.

17. QTE. AGAIN, HE SAID, AUSTRALIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK HAD REPORTED THAT PORTUGUESE HAD ACCEPTED THIS SUGGESTION, SUBJECT TO MR. WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI'S BEING ABLE TO GET SECURITY GUARANTEES

FROM THE INDONESIANS. UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK WERE ADVISING MR. WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI OF THESE DEVELOPMENT.

18. QTE. MR. PEACOCK WELCOMED THESE OFFERS BY THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT, WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE PARTIES IN TIMOR, THEY WOULD ENABLE MR. WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF FRETILIN.

19. QTE. THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR IN NEW YORK HAD INFORMED THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE HAPPY FOR MR. WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI TO COME TO DARWIN IN FURTHERANCE OF HIS MISSION. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE GLAD TO PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE FACILITIES.

20. QTE. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS, MR. PEACOCK SIAD, HE HAD EXPRESSED THE HOPE TO THE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TODA THAT THE INDONESIAON GOVERNMENT WOULD RESPOND PROMPTLY AND POSITIVELY IN THE NEW SITUATION AND MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS IN THE AREAS WHERE IT HAD INFLUENCE SO AS TO GUARANTEE THE GUICCIARDI MISSION SAFE PASSAGE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO CONTACT REPRESENTATIVES OF FRETILIN.

21. QTE. HE HAD ALSO CALLED IN THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR AND HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNEMTN HOPED THAT THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACT EXPEDITIOUSLY IN CARRYING OUT ITS UNDERTAKINGS TO HELP. END QTE.

22. COMMENT: AFTER HIS MEETING WITH THE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA, MR. HER TASNING, PEACOCK WAS QUOTED UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THE PRESS AS SAYING, QTE THERE IS NO GUARANTEE INDONESIA WILL COOPERATE BUT I CALLED IN THE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR AND ASKED HIM FOR EVERY COOPERATION...THERE MUST BE A WITHDRAWAL OF THE INDONESIAN PRESENCE, AN ENDING TO THE BLOODSHED, AND AN ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. I MADE THAT CLEAR WHEN TALKING WITH MR. MALIK AND I REPEATED THAT WHEN I TALKED WITH THE AMBASSADOR. END QTE.

23. PEACOCK'S STATEMENT MARKS THE STRONGEST GOA ACTION TO DATE TO SUPPORT THE SUCCESS OF THE UN MISSION TO TIMORE. END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, LIBERATION FRONTS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, SELFDETERMINATION, PEACE OBSERVATION MISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CANBER00734
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760040-0905
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976016/aaaaaenk.tel
Line Count: 275
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hattaycs
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <21 JUL 2004 by hattaycs>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TIMOR
TAGS: PFOR, AS, PT, UNSC, FRETILIN, (PEACOCK, ANDREW), (GUICCIARDI, WINSPEAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006